

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SAFE FROM THE START ACT OF
2021

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the reintroduction of the Safe from the Start Act of 2021. This bill will reduce incidences of gender-based violence (GBV); ensure quality services for survivors from the very onset of emergencies through timely and effective humanitarian action; and promote standards for prevention, mitigation and response to such crises.

The largest flow of refugees in recorded history are being forced from their home countries and their time spent displaced has increased from years to generations. Climate change continues to spur temporary and permanent displacement, as floods and fires destroy homes and livelihoods.

During times of crisis, GBV increases as chaos and tensions within households and communities grow. An estimated 1 in 5 women in conflict settings have experienced sexual violence, although numbers are likely higher given the barriers associated with disclosure. GBV is often used by armed actors as an intimidation tactic to exert power and control over the opposing side.

Since the onset of COVID, the impact of the virus has increased exposure of women and girls to domestic violence, lack of access to medicine and telehealth, and disruptions in income. Crises like COVID exacerbate risks for GBV, which is exactly what Safe from the Start is set up to mitigate. In this moment, people around the world are living through multiple kinds of emergencies, in some cases simultaneously. Gaps in services and humanitarian protection frameworks have made it difficult to adequately prevent GBV in humanitarian contexts and mitigate its impact. Humanitarian agencies are often under-equipped to address GBV specifically or close gaps between services and accountability that have led directly to GBV, such as the exploitation of women in exchange for supplies by aid workers. To address this, the humanitarian donor community has begun investing in the building standards, guidelines, and capacities of humanitarian actors to better respond to the needs of women and girls in emergencies.

The Safe from the Start Act would support the State Department and USAID's ongoing work to protect and prevent violence against women and girls in humanitarian emergencies by codifying it, and providing Congressional oversight over its implementation.

I want to thank my colleagues, Representatives CHRIS STEWART, LOIS FRANKEL, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, and CHRISSY HOULAHAN for once again leading this bill with me. I urge the rest of my colleagues to support this bill and look forward to its enactment.

HONORING BOB LOCKE ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Bob Locke on the occasion of his 90th birthday on January 30, 2021. This is a momentous occasion.

Mr. Locke has witnessed so many great milestones in American history in his 90 years of life, and it is my pleasure to now add his name to our country's history. Bob has served his country as a National Guardsman where he eventually earned the rank of Sergeant. After his years in the Guard, Bob continued to serve his community tirelessly, his hard work enabling countless public servants the ability to support our fellow citizens. The work Mr. Locke has displayed over the past many years has not gone unnoticed and in these trying times I hope this document begins to thank and recognize him.

On behalf of Indiana's 5th Congressional District, I wish Mr. Locke a happy 90th birthday and continued health.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF ANTOINETTE D. PERRY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th birthday of Mrs. Antoinette Delores Perry, of Youngstown, Ohio, who was born on February 4, 1921.

Mrs. Perry was born in Matrice, Italy and came to the United States at the age of six. She is an alumna of Campbell Memorial High School and graduated from the Cleveland Metro Hospital School of Nursing.

On June 26, 1948, Antoinette married the love of her life, Mr. Anthony Perry. They shared a strong bond, spanning just short of 69 years of marriage. Mr. Perry passed away on June 8, 2017.

Mrs. Perry is the loving mother of three sons, Domenic, John, and Anthony. She is also blessed with nine grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Antoinette has four siblings, three of which have passed, that she dearly misses. She is blessed to have her sister, Mrs. Jane DeSanto, with her today to celebrate this milestone.

A proud woman of faith, Mrs. Perry is a member of St. Dominic Church in Youngstown. With this in mind, it is no wonder why Antoinette was called to serve as a nurse for many years.

I send my best wishes and warmest regards to Antoinette and her entire family on this momentous occasion. Mrs. Perry is the mother-

in-law to Massillon, Ohio Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry, whom I am proud to call a friend. I ask that my colleagues please join me in wishing Antoinette a very happy birthday.

HONORING DICK THORNBURGH

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an influential and dedicated gentleman from Pittsburgh, Richard "Dick" Thornburgh, a devoted public official, former U.S. Attorney General and the 41st governor of Pennsylvania who died on December 31, 2020 at age 88.

Dick Thornburgh dedicated his life and career to improving the lives of others through public service. Prior to being elected to public office, Thornburgh attended Mercersburg Academy then Yale University from which he obtained an engineering degree in 1954. He later received a law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1957, where he served as an editor of the Law Review. He became a member of the Pittsburgh-based law firm Kirkpatrick & Lockhart in 1959. Additionally, Dick was awarded 32 honorary degrees from 32 other colleges and universities.

Dick Thornburgh stands out as an honest, reform-minded public leader. He is universally regarded as an intelligent and empathetic leader. He built his reputation as a crime-busting federal prosecutor in Pittsburgh and as a moderate Republican governor. He is also well known for being a champion to those with intellectual disabilities. Both he and his wife were active in programs for the disabled. In 1985, the Thornburgh's were named "Family of the Year" by the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens. As Attorney General, Dick was instrumental in the passing of the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990.

Dick Thornburgh was the first Republican to serve two successive terms as governor. He was recognized by fellow governors in a 1986 Newsweek poll as one of the most effective big-state governors in the nation. As governor, he oversaw the response to the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident. His calm and steady leadership helped with efforts to the partial meltdown at the nuclear power plant and played a major role in facilitating funding for the cleanup operation. Dick was responsible for consolidating all of Pennsylvania's state-owned colleges and universities into the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Furthermore, he is credited for creating the Governor's Schools, which were programs for talented and gifted high school students.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan appointed Dick Thornburgh as the United States Attorney General and held on to that position after President George H.W. Bush was inaugurated. Thornburgh was sworn into office

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